

president of the Pioneer Football League and past chair of the NCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse Committee. Especially important in the Indianapolis community, he served as a cochairman of the Local Organizing Committee for the 1997, 2000, and 2006 NCAA Men's Final Four and the 2005 NCAA Women's Final Four.

Personally, I have enjoyed working closely with John each year as Butler hosts the annual Dick Lugar Run and Walk. John's enthusiasm has ensured the success of this special tradition as so many from all over central Indiana come together to enjoy a day of competition and fitness.

I appreciate this opportunity to congratulate John, and I look forward to many more opportunities to work closely with him as he pursues new challenges and adventures.

ANGELS OF ADOPTION

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, later this month, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption will host a gala to honor individuals from across the country that have contributed greatly to programs that strive to keep our most vulnerable children safe and healthy in permanent homes.

I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Coalition and this event marks a true celebration for individuals we call Angels of Adoption. The Angel of Adoption awards recognize individuals who are dedicated to the welfare of children. It should be noted that our "Angels" often forgo lucrative positions in law firms and other private sector work because of their commitment to provide legal protection for thousands of children.

This year I am delighted to honor Mary Ellen Griffith as our West Virginia Angel of Adoption. Mary Ellen Griffith is the founder and past director of ChildLaw Services in Princeton, WV. Ms. Griffith has earnestly provided policy and legal advocacy for West Virginia children during her tenure as a legal service lawyer. Her direct representation of children has been complimented by faculty appointments to university programs where she has lectured on topics such as family law, guardianship, and custody issues. She certainly is well prepared for her recent appointment as a family law judge. Her work on the bench will offer the court the high level knowledge, experience and sensitivity required to safeguard the well-being of children.

I am well aware that the essential efforts of the courts can go unrecognized. But I maintain a very high regard for the courts because they regularly play a vital role in adoption and child protection. That is why I introduced the We Care Kids Act with Senator Mike DeWine of Ohio last year, and was proud when it was incorporated into the law earlier this year. This act now gives our local courts the necessary resources and training through Federal grants issued by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Dedicated judges like Mary Ellen Griffith will play a pivotal role in prompting adoptions and working to ensure that our most vulnerable children are safe, healthy and have a permanent home.●

MAYOR BOB O'CONNOR

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, today in sadness I acknowledge the passing of a fine man, a great Pennsylvanian, a life-long Pittsburgher, Robert E. O'Connor, Jr., mayor of Pittsburgh.

Bob O'Connor loved Pittsburgh. He was born in Pittsburgh, graduated from the city's Taylor Allderdice High School in 1962, and lived, with his wife Judy, in Squirrel Hill for 41 years. Like so many Pittsburgh sons, Bob began his working life in the steel mills, where he worked for 5 years before moving on, entering the family restaurant business. After 29 years in the private sector, Bob decided to enter the public square, and was elected to Pittsburgh's City Council in 1991.

In a testament to both his effectiveness as a city legislator and the professional manner in which he always conducted himself, Bob became City Council President 7 years after he first joined the Council. For 5 years, he served Pittsburgh as its highest ranking legislative official, resigning only when Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell tapped Bob to serve, as the face of his administration in the southwestern Pennsylvania. Two years later, in November of 2005, Bob was elected the 58th mayor of Pittsburgh.

There was much he sought to do as mayor, much he had planned for our proud city. Tragically, he never got the chance. Merely 7 months after he took office, Bob O'Connor was diagnosed with brain cancer. He immediately began to undergo aggressive treatment, working to get healthy enough to return to serving his city. Sadly, his illness progressed, and on September 1, Mayor O'Connor passed away.

Today, September 7, Mayor Bob O'Connor was laid to rest in Pittsburgh, the city he served for 15 years, the city he loved his whole life. I joined his family, his friends, and many others at his funeral service, paying our last respects to a man taken from us far too soon.

Robert E. O'Connor, Jr., survived by his wife, Judy, and three children, will be sorely missed. May God bless the entire O'Connor family during this difficult time.●

CONSTITUTION WEEK

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge the Fort Miro Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Monroe, LA. Beginning September 17 and ending September 23, this great organization will observe its annual Constitution Week. Today, I'd like to spend a few moments highlighting the importance of their efforts.

The Daughters of the American Revolution petitioned Congress in 1955 to set aside a week to celebrate the Constitution. Thanks to their petition, Congress through a joint resolution on August 2, 1956, requested that the president declare September 17 to 23 as Constitution Week.

This week sets out to emphasize citizens' responsibilities for protecting and defending the Constitution, inform people that the Constitution is the basis for America's great heritage, and encourage the study of the historical events surrounding its framing in September 1787.

This year on September 17 at 3:00 pm, this long-time chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will participate in "Bells Across America" to commemorate the signing of the Constitution and to recognize all citizens of the United States of America.

I applaud the Daughters of the American Revolution for their continued dedication to celebrating the importance of the Constitution through education and activism. Moreover, I commend the Fort Miro Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Monroe, LA, for doing this fine work on behalf of the State of Louisiana.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3534. An act to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to provide for a YouthBuild program.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2491. An act to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to authorize States to restrict receipt of foreign municipal solid waste and implement the Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste between the United States and Canada, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2808. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

The message further announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2103(b), and the